



FOOT
28 OCT 96
JOURNAL

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF EDINBURGH

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 15TH MAY 1896.

It has not been the practice hitherto for Committees of the Town Council to submit annual reports, or, indeed, detailed reports of any kind, upon their ordinary operations. A knowledge of these can only be gathered by outsiders from occasional statements at meetings of Council, or in the minutes of the Council proceedings, or from the published accounts which show the objects to which the different Committees have applied the share of the rates placed at their disposal. It would be for the public convenience, and would probably prove most serviceable in the general work of the Council, if the practice were introduced of the various committees drawing up an annual statement upon their operations during each financial year. If, further, such a report set forth each new development of the Committee's work, with explanations of the needs which give rise to it, of how much it may be likely to cost, and the advantages expected to flow from it, the public would probably acquiesce with greater willingness, because with better knowledge, in bearing the charges entailed by needful improvements.

Desirability of descriptive reports by various Committees of the Town Council.

In any case, the work of the Public Health Committee has become so extensive, and touches the interest of the ratepayers at so many points, that it seems in every way desirable to attempt a beginning with an annual report which shall seek to give a clear and succinct account of the work carried on in the several departments under the supervision of the Committee. With the exception of the Committee of Electric Lighting, the Public Health Committee is the most recent standing Committee of the Town Council. It came into existence only twenty-four years ago. It is worth while to quote from the Minutes of the Council the following account of the proceedings which led to the formation of the Committee.

*Excerpt from the Minutes of the Town Council of Edinburgh of
19th November 1872.*

There was submitted Report by the Special Committee appointed on 6th August 1872, on the motion of Bailie Lewis, "to report on a better organisation " for accomplishing the Sanitary business of the City under the Public Health " Act," whereof the tenour follows :—

Origin of Public Health Committee.

“ EDINBURGH, 6th September 1872.

“ At a Meeting of the SPECIAL COMMITTEE appointed to consider and Report on the
“ Subject of the above Remit.

“ *Present*,—Bailie Lewis, *Convener*; Treasurer Colston, Councillors Wilson and Lees,
“ Dr Littlejohn, Mr Fraser, *Burgh Engineer*.

“ Bailie LEWIS in the Chair.

“ Read the above Remit.

“ The Meeting have anxiously considered the whole subject remitted to them, with reference
“ to the enactments of the Edinburgh Police Act, 1848, the Edinburgh Police Amendment Act,
“ 1854, and the Edinburgh Provisional Order. By these several Acts, specific duties and obliga-
“ tions are laid upon various public officers, and specially on the Inspector of Cleaning and
“ Lighting, the Burgh Engineer, and the Medical Officer of Health, and these duties are carried
“ out under the direction of the Cleaning and Lighting, the Streets and Buildings, and the Lord
“ Provost's Committees respectively. It appears to a majority of the Committee that the
“ general arrangements under which the business of these several departments is carried on
“ cannot be altered with advantage, so as to transfer to any separate new committee the
“ essential functions either of the Cleaning and Lighting or Streets and Buildings Committee,
“ which are sufficiently onerous to require the undivided attention of these Committees, and
“ could not be adequately overtaken by any one committee. Nor would it be expedient to
“ appoint a new standing sanitary committee to interfere with, or control any other com-
“ mittee in the performances of duties entrusted to it. It does appear, however, to the
“ Special Committee that, looking to the large access of duties bearing on the public health
“ which are assigned to the Magistrates and Council, as the Local Authority under the Public
“ Health and other acts, it would be of advantage to appoint as one of the Standing Committees
“ of the Council a Sanitary Committee, the duty of which would be to take charge of all
“ matters affecting the general health of the community, with powers to call the attention of
“ other Committees to matters affecting the public health, but which fall within the proper
“ functions of such committees. Thus, for example, without in any degree interfering with
“ that control and direction which the Cleaning Committee or the Streets and Buildings Com-
“ mittee exercises—the one over the cleaning arrangements and the other over the drainage
“ arrangements of the City—the new or Sanitary Committee might advantageously, and without
“ giving rise to any complications, direct the attention of these Committees to the health of a
“ particular district, and to circumstances affecting that health, which it would be their duty to
“ inquire into with a view to an adequate remedy being provided. Besides, it appears to the
“ Special Committee that some of the present standing Committees might advantageously be
“ relieved of various duties which are at present devolved upon them, and which, as affecting
“ the public health, might be transferred to the new or Sanitary Committee. In this view, the
“ Special Committee are of opinion that the following matters should be assigned to the new or
“ Sanitary Committee :—

- “ 1. The supervision of Burying-Grounds.
- “ 2. The supervision of Lodging-Houses.
- “ 3. The prevention of Smoke Nuisance.
- “ 4. The consideration of all proposals to establish New Manufactories, and the supervision
“ of Manufactories already established.
- “ 5. The inspection of Workshops, Bakehouses, Cowhouses, &c.
- “ 6. The adulteration of food.
- “ 7. The prevention or mitigation of epidemic disease, including the establishment and
“ administration of hospitals, &c.

“ It was further suggested, that the inspection of cesspools and the ventilation of sewers
“ should be assigned to the Sanitary Committee, but the consideration of this suggestion was
“ delayed.

“ It was also suggested, that the Conveners of the Streets and Buildings, and Cleaning and
“ Lighting Committees, should be members, *ex officio*, of the Sanitary Committee, and that,
“ on the other hand, the Convener of the Sanitary Committee should be, *ex officio*, a member
“ of both of these Committees.

“ It also appears to the Special Committee, that as many of these are matters which require
“ immediate attention, the new or Sanitary Committee should have powers to investigate
“ and Report, and in all matters of *urgency*, but which do not involve serious expense, to act
“ without a special remit from the Town Council.

“ The Special Committee are farther of opinion, that as the changes thus proposed are very
“ important, the minute of the present meeting should be submitted to another meeting, and
“ should be deliberately reconsidered with a view to the whole subject being brought before
“ the Council as soon as practicable.

“ DAVID LEWIS, *Bailie*.”

“ At EDINBURGH, the 17th October 1872.

“ At a Meeting of the SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

“ *Present*,—The Lord Provost, Bailie Lewis, Councillor Macdonell, Councillor Lees,
“ Councillor Roberts, Dr Littlejohn, Mr Paterson, Mr Fraser.

“ The foregoing Minute, which had been printed and circulated among the members
“ of the Special Committee, was submitted and held as read.

“ The Committee having again carefully considered the subject, approved of the Minute
“ of 6th September, with the following alterations :—

"1. That the name of the new Committee which it is recommended to be appointed, should be the Public Health Committee.

"2. That the matters to be assigned to the Committee should be :—

"(1). The supervision of Burying-Grounds, and the burial of dead bodies.

"(2). The supervision of Lodging-Houses, Underground and Overcrowded houses.

"(3). The prevention of Smoke Nuisance.

"(4). The consideration of all proposals to establish new Manufactories, and the supervision of Manufactories already established.

"(5). The inspection of Workshops, Bakehouses, Cowhouses, Stables, and Pigsties.

"(6). The Adulteration of Food and Diseased Meat.

"(7). The prevention or mitigation of epidemic disease, including the establishment and administration of hospitals, &c.

"3. That the Burgh Engineer should be required to report periodically to the Public Health Committee the progress of his proceedings in regard to the inspection of cesspools, and the ventilation of sewers.

"WILLIAM LAW, *Lord Provost.*"

"Councillor Lees, seconded by Bailie Wilson, moved :—That the report be generally approved, and, in accordance with the recommendation it contains, that a new Standing Committee, to be called the Public Health Committee, be now appointed, with powers to deal with the several matters therein described, and that the members of committee be appointed at next meeting.

"The Magistrates and Council adopted the foregoing Motion, and remitted to the Lord Provost's Committee to suggest a Committee to be appointed."

On 3rd December 1872 the first members of Committee were appointed, with Councillor Henry Lees as convener. Mr Lees held office till his death at the close of 1873. Subsequent conveners were Sir James Falshaw, Bart., appointed 13th January 1874; Sir James Gowans (1874 to 1881); Sir Thomas Clark, Bart. (1881 to 1885); and Sir James A. Russell, LL.D. (1885 to 1891). The work developed slowly in the earlier years—the annual expenditure seldom exceeding £3000. It received, however, a large accession in 1885, when the Managers of the Royal Infirmary refused any longer to receive fever patients at the cost of their charity. The duty of the Local Authority to provide for the treatment and prevention of infectious disease had, in the public interest, to be recognised. With some reluctance the Council accepted the duty, and, having acquired from the Royal Infirmary Managers the parts of their old buildings which had formerly been used as the Surgical Hospital, including the building which was once the Old High School of Edinburgh, they adapted them for use as a Fever Hospital. The charge of the Hospital was forthwith placed under the management of the Health Committee.

Growth of Public Health Committee's work.

The scope of the Committee's work is foreshadowed in the excerpt already given and practically embraces everything that affects the general health of the community. The sanitary condition of dwellings and of workshops; the fitness of meat, milk and other articles for human food; smoke and other nuisances likely to be injurious to health; the sanitary state of bakehouses, public markets and slaughter-houses, all come within the range of the Committee's supervision. The Committee are consequently in constant touch with other committees. If the state of the public drains should threaten danger in any locality, the aid of the Streets and Buildings Committee is called in; if they find complaints arising through the existence of nuisances about the public thoroughfares, the Cleaning and Lighting Committee are referred to; while, in carrying out the important work of meat inspection, they are in almost daily co-operation with the Markets Committee. Above all, the Public Health Committee are charged with the protection of the community against infectious disease, and, as has just been indicated, with the management of the City Hospital, upon which the demands have increased year by year for the treatment of citizens suffering from any form of zymotic illness.

Scope of Committee's work.

In their first complete year the Committee expended the sum of £1579. Last year their expenditure was £20,159.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Vital Statistics main gauge of Committee's service.

The Vital Statistics of the City form the gauge by which the Committee measure the main success of their service. For many years the rate of mortality has been greatly diminishing. The following Table (A), which, like the other Tables in this Report, has been compiled from records kept in the Department of Public Health, and authenticated by Sir Henry D. Littlejohn, Medical Officer of Health, presents some instructive and most encouraging features :—

TABLE A.
MORTALITY DURING UNDERMENTIONED YEARS.

Years.	Population.	Rate per 1000.	Remarks.
1864	173,081	27·00	Average Mortality during Quinquennium, 27·40. Average Annual Death-rate during same period, 4805. Whooping-Cough Epidemic.
1865	174,180	27·80	
1866	175,059	27·40	
1867	175,938	27·10	
1868	176,817	27·00	
1869	177,696	30·40	Influenza and Measles Epidemics.
1870	178,575	26·30	
1871	201,766	26·90	
1872	205,009	26·75	
1873	202,750	20·48	
1874	205,636	22·27	
1875	208,521	23·17	
1876	211,406	19·62	
1877	214,291	20·86	
1878	217,176	21·53	
1879	220,061	18·89	
1880	222,946	20·84	
1881	228,346	18·86	
1882	231,483	18·54	
1883	234,620	18·22	
1884	246,703	18·89	
1885	250,615	16·92	
1886	254,591	17·89	
1887	258,629	18·65	
1888	262,733	16·64	
1889	266,900	16·54	
1890	271,135	18·43	
1891	261,970	20·06	Smallpox. First Half-Year, Measles Epidemic. Second Half-Year ending 31st December. Half-Year ending 30th June.
1892	264,787	17·92	
1893	267,672	18·04	
1894	270,588	16·07	
1895	273,535	19·17	
1895	273,535	15·54	
1896	276,514	15·51	

Mortality Rate of 30 years ago contrasted with that of present time.

For the five years from 1864 to 1868 inclusive, the normal mortality was 27·40. In the latter half of 1895, and the first half of 1896, the mortality had fallen to 15·53. There is thus practically a diminution of 12 per 1000 in the annual normal death-rate of the city within the period of thirty years. The year now reported upon shows the lowest death-rate ever reached in Edinburgh. The rate is not indeed so low as may still be reached. But the above table suggests in the most forcible way how much has been gained by the attention the citizens have paid during recent times to the improvement of health conditions throughout the City. Thirty years ago, in a population of 175,015, there died annually 4805 persons; last year, in a population of 276,514—an increase of 101,499—there died only 4271 persons. That is to say, 534 fewer deaths occurred last year, though the population had increased by more than a half, than took place thirty years ago. If the mortality of thirty years ago had prevailed last year, not 4271

deaths but 7615 would have taken place; that is, 3344 more lives would have been lost. It is a striking and most noteworthy fact that within a moderate-sized city like Edinburgh we may now reckon that every year there are actually saved 3344 lives which must certainly have been lost if the health conditions of the people were now no better than they were only a generation ago. Each of these saved lives has an economic value, and in point of fact this value is much greater than it could have been thirty years since, because, the citizens having been nourished under better health conditions; their vitality is greater; moreover, they have the advantages of improved education, for within this period the Board Schools have sprung up under the Act of 1872, with free education for all, and there has been an enormous expansion of secondary education in Edinburgh by the Merchant Company Schools and the George Heriot Endowment. Economists state the average annual earnings per head of the population of Great Britain at £35. But, if it may be permitted to state the value of each of these lives at only £100 each, our saving of human life may be moderately expressed in the sum of £334,400 per annum, which is £91,156 in excess of the estimated sum required to be raised by the Burgh and Police Rate for the year 1896-7. It is, in point of fact, equivalent to a rate of about 3s. 3½d. per pound upon the present productive rental, or 1s. per pound more than the Burgh Rates proposed to be assessed for the year now current. Such an abatement of mortality within a single generation can hardly be shewn by any town of the same or greater population throughout the United Kingdom; and it may be doubted whether there ever was a period in the history of Edinburgh that could be more appropriately named its golden age.

The Table (B) given on the following page is interesting as showing the mortality during the past ten years, according to different age periods, viz., from birth to 5 years, from 5 to 15 years, which may be called the school age; from 15 to 30 years, from 30 to 60 years, and above 60 years. In future it is hoped that shorter age periods may be taken, and that the mortality among males and females respectively may be shewn. The first age period indicates what room there still is for a greater reduction of the death-roll. The mortality among children under five years of age is more than 30 per cent. of the total mortality. It is the aim of the Committee and of the Town Council to transfer a large part of this mortality to the other end of life. There is no doubt that infant life to an appalling extent is still sacrificed among us. It should be no consolation to us that we are no worse than our neighbours. The reproach exists, and we are bound to use every possible effort to have it removed. The second period is remarkable for its strong vitality. It may be taken as shewing that lives which have passed through the vicissitudes, risks and ordeals of the infant period, are, so to speak, picked lives. The school age is with us the period of lowest mortality, while the period up to five years is the highest. There is therefore less room to effect a reduction of mortality in this class. Yet it is something to say that within the last ten years there has been a reduction of 10 per cent. even here. Were we to go further back and compare the mortality among school-age children 25 or 30 years ago with that which we now have, we should find that, under the conditions prevailing so recently as the year 1872, the loss now would be more than double. The other age periods need not at present be commented upon.

Mortality according to age period.

Infant mortality.

Table C (on page 7) gives the mortality in the three sub-divisions of the city since 1886. It strikingly illustrates the advantages of improved conditions. Mortality is highest in the Old Town, where there is most overcrowding and poverty; it is less in the New Town, which, however, includes some poor and insanitary quarters; it is least in the Southern Districts, where there is a large villa population and greater abundance of fresh air and sunlight. The lesson is obvious enough, namely, as far as possible, to introduce into the poorer parts of the town the blessings of space and good air and sunlight, which produce such beneficent results in other places.

Mortality in main divisions of the City.

TABLE B.
MORTALITY ACCORDING TO AGE DURING THE UNDERMENTIONED YEARS.

YEARS.	Under 5 years.		From 5 to 15 years.		From 15 to 30 years.		From 30 to 60 years.		Above 60 years.		Total.		REMARKS.
	No. of deaths.	Rate per cent.	No. of deaths.	Rate per cent.	No. of deaths.	Rate per cent.	No. of deaths.	Rate per cent.	No. of deaths.	Rate per cent.	No. of deaths.	Rate per cent.	
1886	1713	37·60	248	5·44	397	8·71	1110	24·36	1087	23·86	4555	17·89	Influenza. Influenza and Measles.
1887	1798	37·27	310	6·42	410	8·49	1130	23·42	1176	24·37	4824	18·65	
1888	1569	35·87	202	4·61	378	8·64	1113	25·44	1112	25·42	4374	16·64	
1889	1616	36·60	235	5·32	368	8·33	1094	24·77	1102	24·96	4415	16·54	
1890	1880	37·60	290	5·80	445	8·90	1147	22·94	1237	24·74	4999	18·43	
1891	1616	30·73	267	5·07	461	8·76	1329	25·28	1584	30·13	5257	20·06	
1892	1742	36·70	264	5·56	398	8·38	1172	24·69	1170	24·65	4746	17·92	
1893	1802	37·30	235	4·86	387	8·01	1223	25·32	1183	24·49	4830	18·04	
1894	1427	32·80	243	5·58	412	9·47	1151	26·45	1117	25·67	4350	16·07	
1895	1882	35·87	250	4·76	449	8·55	1278	24·36	1387	26·43	5246	19·17	
Last Half, 1895	} 812	38·19	106	4·98	190	8·93	499	23·47	519	24·41	2126	15·54	Severe Measles.
First Half, 1896		31·23	104	4·84	232	10·81	541	25·22	598	27·87	2145	15·51	

TABLE C.
MORTALITY IN THE THREE SUBDIVISIONS OF THE CITY DURING THE UNDERMENTIONED YEARS.

YEARS.	NEW TOWN.			OLD TOWN.			SOUTHERN DISTRICTS.			TOTAL.			REMARKS.
	Deaths.	Population.	Rate per 1000.	Deaths.	Population.	Rate per 1000.	Deaths.	Population.	Rate per 1000.	Deaths.	Population.	Rate per 1000.	
1886	1,418	97,614	14.52	2,494	110,601	22.54	643	46,376	13.86	4,555	254,591	17.89	
1887	1,531	100,584	15.71	2,548	108,638	23.45	695	49,407	14.06	4,824	258,629	18.65	
1888	1,434	103,554	13.84	2,240	106,741	20.98	700	52,438	13.34	4,374	262,733	16.64	
1889	1,428	106,524	13.40	2,294	104,907	21.86	693	55,469	12.49	4,415	266,900	16.54	
1890	1,713	108,642	15.76	2,493	104,907	23.76	793	57,586	13.77	4,999	271,135	18.43	Influenza.
1891	1,803	106,790	16.88	2,562	108,867	23.52	892	46,313	19.26	5,257	261,970	20.06	Influenza and Measles.
1892	1,598	108,362	14.74	2,525	108,736	23.22	623	47,689	13.06	4,746	264,787	17.92	
1893	1,806	109,947	16.42	2,304	108,605	21.21	720	49,120	14.65	4,830	267,672	18.04	
1894	1,589	111,545	14.24	2,141	108,475	19.73	620	50,568	12.26	4,350	270,588	16.07	
1895	1,854	113,160	16.38	2,618	108,345	24.16	774	52,030	14.87	5,246	273,535	19.17	Measles and Small Pox.
Last Half, 1895	778	113,160	13.75	1,038	108,345	19.16	310	52,030	11.91	2,126	273,535	15.54	
First Half, 1896	748	114,785	13.03	1,059	108,215	19.57	338	53,514	12.63	2,145	276,514	15.51	

DIVISIONS OF THE CITY.

Statistical Districts
of the City.

The City has for statistical purposes been divided into three well-defined portions, viz. :—

NEW TOWN, OLD TOWN, AND SOUTHERN DISTRICTS.

The *New Town Division* comprises the entire Registration District of St Andrew's with a portion of St George's District, and extends northwards from the Railway Valley to the City Boundary.

The *Old Town Division* is composed of the entire Registration Districts of St Giles' and Canongate, with several portions detached from St George's and Newington Districts, and extends from the Railway Valley on the north, the line of the Meadows on the south, it is bounded by Arthur's Seat on the east, and westward it includes Fountainbridge.

The *Southern Districts Division* has the Newington Registration District south of the Meadows alone within its confines.

<i>New Town Division</i> has :—		<i>Old Town Division</i> has :—	
Whole of St Bernard's Ward,		Whole of St Giles' Ward,	
„ Broughton „		„ Canongate „	
„ St Stephen's „		„ George Square „	
„ St Andrew's „		Part of St Leonard's „	
„ St Luke's „		„ St Cuthbert's „	
„ St George's „		„ Calton „	
Part of Calton „			
„ St Cuthbert's „			

And the *Southern Division* embraces :—

Whole of Newington Ward,

Part of St Leonard's „

„ St Cuthbert's „

It is easy to conceive a more satisfactory and perhaps a more detailed sub-division. This may become the more necessary in consequence of the extension of the city under the Act of 1896, and will be fully considered by the Committee.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

All Fevers not
notified.

Since November 1879 cases of Infectious Disease occurring within the City have been notified to the Public Health Department. The ordinarily notifiable diseases are Typhus, Typhoid, Diphtheria, Small-pox, Scarletina, and Measles. Whooping Cough, Influenza, Mumps, and Erysipelas would be ordered to be notified in the event of epidemic. Cholera would, of course, be notified in case of outbreak, and in that event British Cholera and Diarrhœa would also be placed among the notifiable diseases. Notification is not yet required of cases of Phthisis, as that disease, though now regarded as infectious, does not fall among those falling to be dealt with by Local Authorities. A fee of 2s. 6d. is allowed to practitioners for each case of infectious disease notified to the Department. Last year these fees amounted to £1296, 12s. 6d. The benefits of notification are obvious. The locality of an outbreak is at once known, necessary precautions can be immediately taken, patients may be promptly removed to hospital, neighbours, schools and workshops can be warned, while effective measures may be taken for disinfection where that is needful.

TABLE D.
NOTIFICATIONS AND MORTALITY OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE,
From 15th May 1895 to 15th May 1896.

DISEASE.	Cases Notified.	Mortality.	Rate per Cent.
Typhus Fever,	10	3	30·00
Typhoid Fever,	471	62	13·16
Diphtheria,	315	61	19·36
Small-pox, . . . . .	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever,	2975	65	2·18
Measles,	1689	29	1·71
	5460	220	
Whooping Cough, . . . . .	...	78	} 86
*Erysipelas, . . . . .	...	8	
		306	
*Phthisis,	Special.	509	...

* Not notified.

Total Number of Notifications,	5460
Total Mortality from Infectious Disease,	306
Less 86 not notifiable,	86
	<u>220</u> or 4·02 per cent.

The point of melancholy interest in the foregoing table is the high mortality from Phthisis, which accounts for nearly 8½ per cent. of our total mortality. The Committee are fully alive to the importance of using all possible means to prevent the spread and reduce the prevalence of this dreadful disease. It is satisfactory to know that recent knowledge of the subject is finding its way among the people, and that in the purchase of butcher meat and milk greater discrimination is being shown to obtain these articles free from the suspicion of tuberculous taint.

The comparatively satisfactory reduction in our mortality is by no means to be wholly attributed to the work of the Health Committee, or even to the general administration of the city's affairs. Many causes have been at work, each in its own way and measure contributing to the general result. Intelligent and prudent administration has done much, but it has been powerfully aided by the advance of medical science and by the spread of knowledge and of improved habits among the people. Undoubtedly, also, the increase of the wage-earning power of the working classes, combined with the greater cheapness of wholesome food, has played an important part in stimulating effort after healthier modes of life. In 1864 the number of separate dwelling-houses in Edinburgh did not exceed 10,000. It is now over 50,000. The population has increased by about 59½ per cent., but the number of dwelling-houses has increased 400 per cent. This does not merely mean a great addition to the conditions of health, it also means a large increase upon the possible decencies and amenities of life which ought surely to tell upon the moral tone of the community. Chief, of course, among the causes of our improved sanitary condition have been the improvement schemes under the Provostships of Dr William Chambers and Sir James A. Russell. To the acquisition of public parks and recreation grounds and to the clearing of open spaces for playgrounds in the poorest parts of the city, must also be attributed a part of the credit for the good results we now see; while the more healthful surroundings in which the school hours of our children are now spent may in like manner claim to have assisted in the general benefit.

Causes of reduced mortality.

Further reduction of mortality to be sought, and possible.

But, though the mortality of the city is now lower than it has ever been, and though it may be favourably compared with that of other cities, the Committee strongly feel that a lower rate is still within reach. Having regard to the City improvements that have taken place and those that are still in progress, to the natural advantages which the situation of the City commands, and to the increased administrative powers recently acquired by the Local Authority, there seems no good reason why, in the course of a very few years, the annual normal mortality should not be reduced to 14 or less per 1000, so that the normal expectation of life of the Edinburgh citizen may be raised even above the Psalmist's three score years and ten. It has been shewn that the mortality is lower than 14 per 1000 already in several parts of the City. But in other parts, where people still cling to foul habits, and where clean water, pure air, and sunlight seem to be regarded as things to be avoided, or at least as unnecessary—for there are still such places among us—death continues to exact heavy tribute, especially among those of tender years. We have no right to rest satisfied so long as such causes contribute so largely to the loss of human life.

Suggested treatment of incorrigibles.

It is necessary to refer here to one great procuring cause of bad health and death in the poorer districts of the city—namely, the presence of a small brigade of incorrigibles. They are the habitual offenders who, time and again, are brought up at our Police Court, and sentenced over and over again to short terms of imprisonment. The children they produce are neglected when they are in prison, and are worse neglected when they are out. Idle and filthy in their habits, they are a source of degradation and disease in the places they live in. Decent neighbours suffer from their proximity and frequently bear the burden of keeping them and their families from starvation. Why, it may be asked, ought such people to be allowed to spread dirt and squalor among their fellow-citizens and make themselves a burden and a nuisance to those who are struggling to maintain themselves in decency? It is reckoned that this body of ne'er-do-weels is, after all, not more than 400 strong, but it exercises a baneful influence out of all proportion to its size. If, instead of being sent to prison for short terms, it may be up to the 200th or 250th time, these people were, after repeated offences, put under permanent restraint and made to work at some employment by which they should earn at least as much as would pay the cost of their own maintenance, nothing but good to the community could result, and unquestionably there would be an appreciable saving of human life.

UN SOUND FOOD INSPECTION.

System of Dead Meat inspection.

A systematic inspection is maintained by duly qualified inspectors acting under the Medical Officer of Health at the Slaughter Houses and Markets, as well as in all shops throughout the city where food is sold for human use. No dead meat is now received for inspection at the Slaughter-Houses, and this regulation has worked satisfactorily. Dead meat coming for consumption into the city is examined in the hands of the consignees. Cases in which unsound meat is found in the hands of persons who, knowing it to be unsound, are seeking to dispose of it for human use, are becoming more and more rare. It is pleasing to note that there was no prosecution during the year on account of meat being found with guilty knowledge on the part of the owners. The Committee acknowledge with the utmost satisfaction the facilities and great assistance which their officials receive, not only from master butchers and stock-owners, but from respectable traders of all classes whom they have to meet in the discharge of their duties.

The following Tables with explanatory notes will be found useful :—

TABLE E., showing the number of carcasses seized, or given up, and their diseases. Unsound Carcasses seized or given.

	Cows	Bullocks	Heifers	Calves	Swine	Sheep	Totals
Inflammatory conditions of Chest . .	20	2	...	2	5	...	29
" " of Abdomen . .	18	...	1	1	7	...	27
" " of Mammae . .	4	...	...	...	...	...	4
" " Undetermined . .	73	3	...	19	32	39	166
Milk Fever	3	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dropsy	13	2	...	...	4	55	74
Tuberculosis	130	6	5	...	15	...	156
Anthrax . . . . .	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Suffocation	1	3	...	...	...	37	41
Unmarketable	12	...	1	9	47	22	91
Swine Fever . . . . .	...	...	...	...	36	...	36
Totals	274	17	7	31	146	153	628

Meat killed and condemned in
Edinburgh Slaughterhouse.

Beef . 140,673 lbs.
Mutton . 5,864 „
Pork . 9,489 „
Veal . 1,598 „

Dead meat, &c., sent by rail from
the country.

Beef . 1,443 lbs.
Mutton . 163 „
Fish . 6,965 „

8,601 „

157,624

Total numbers killed at the Slaughterhouses, 30,348 cattle, 6,709 swine, 6,496 calves, and 183,011 sheep. Of these there were condemned as unfit for human food 295 cattle, 146 swine, 31 calves, and 149 sheep. Outside the Slaughterhouse there were seized the carcasses of 3 cattle and 4 sheep. It is to be kept in view that there is only one place of slaughter in Edinburgh. Animals killed at Slaughterhouses.

Of the cattle condemned 274 were cows, 17 bullocks, and 7 heifers.

TABLE F., shewing weight in lbs. of meat, fish, &c., seized or given up during the year. Meat on sale seized or surrendered.

	Beef.	Mutton.	Pork.	Veal.	Fish.	Totals
May, from 15th, 16 seizures	2,920	355	308	...	120	3,703
June . . 36 „	10,882	531	92	90	56	11,651
July . . 32 „	8,500	284	340	102	...	9,226
August . 40 „	12,780	166	242	26	2,235	15,449
September . 39 „	6,561	544	1,398	103	1,962	10,568
October . 44 „	12,163	375	400	72	364	13,374
November . 54 „	15,992	553	589	161	130	17,425
December . 50 „	17,395	365	1,490	340	120	19,710
January . 44 „	10,670	374	1,634	30	132	12,840
February . 40 „	10,591	558	2,078	150	1,564	14,941
March . 66 „	14,582	747	612	355	72	16,368
April . 52 „	12,098	937	306	60	...	13,401
May, to 15th, 23 „	6,982	238	...	109	240	7,569
Total . 544 „	142,116	6,027	9,489	1,598	6,995	166,225

Of the 544 seizures, 508 were of animals killed in the Slaughterhouses.

There were 28 seizures of fish—3 at Waverley Station in transit and 25 at the Wholesale Fish Markets. These were readily given up by the owners.

There were 4 sheep and 3 cow carcasses seized on railway lorries being conveyed to the saleyards, and orders for their destruction were granted by the Sheriff, or by the Magistrates.

There were 2 seizures of rabbits at Waverley Station, comprising 45 pairs.

There were no seizures in the shops or while exposed for sale, and, as already stated, there was no prosecution for bad meat during the year.

Since meat was prohibited from being sent to the Slaughterhouses for inspection, country consignments have greatly decreased in number.

Tuberculous animals
now traced.

From the month of *August* all tuberculous animals were traced as far as possible to the source from which they came with the following results:—

From the city byres there were 26 cows.

From the country there were 81 cows, 5 bullocks, 6 heifers, and 10 pigs.

Special attention will henceforward be given to the case of tuberculous animals.

STATEMENT of samples of Food-stuffs taken for analysis from
15th May 1895 to 15th May 1896.

Sweet Milk	.	.	.	19	samples taken.
Bread	.	.	.	5	„ „
Coffee	.	.	.	3	„ „
Butter	.	.	.	2	„ „
Oatmeal	.	.	.	2	„ „
Cheese	.	.	.	2	„ „
Tea	.	.	.	1	„ „
Whiskey	.	.	.	1	„ „
				35	„ „

There was one prosecution for adulterated milk. Seller fined 10s. and expenses.

INSANITARY DWELLINGS.

Opening up of
congested areas.

By the operation of the improvement schemes of the Corporation under their Act of 1893 and the Housing of the Working Classes Act, along with the extension of the North British Railway, large inroads have been made upon some of the most congested districts. Many dingy and overcrowded slums in Lawnmarket, High Street, Canongate, Cowgate, Potterrow, Dunbar Street and Thornybauk have been abolished. Although the police frankly testify to the greatly improved condition of Lawnmarket and other districts, these operations give rise to evil tendencies that require to be carefully watched. The people who are dishoused are inclined to take to sub-dividing and sub-letting in other places and thus start fresh processes of deterioration in their new homes and depreciation of their surroundings. "Experience has shown," says the Burgh Engineer, "that nothing short of a methodical, systematic, and persistent inspection of these districts can be relied on for the maintenance of healthy and sanitary conditions." As the clearance operations proceed, Edinburgh slum life as we have hitherto known it will be practically abolished, provided immediate and effective steps be taken to ensure that slum conditions are not distributed through other parts of the city. The problem before the Corporation is how to prevent the classes dishoused under the improvement schemes falling into their old ways. It is expected that this will be so far met by the experiment now being carried out in the workmen's dwellings erected by the Corporation. It may be for consideration whether, as the lighting of common stairs has been undertaken by the Local Authority at the cost of the owners, it would not be equally advisable to make a periodical cleansing of at least some common stairs on the same condition. It is also worthy of consideration whether there should not be a period of inspection and certification—say once a year—of dwellings rented at say £6 and under. There can be no doubt that large numbers of the poorest among the people need to be protected, not only from themselves, but from becoming sources of disease which may spread far beyond their own neighbourhood.

The following Abstract will show the work done in connection with in-
sanitary dwellings under the direction of the Burgh Engineer :—

I.—UNINHABITABLE HOUSES.

No. of Tene- ments or part thereof.	No. of Separate Houses.	No. of Houses of one apartment.	No. of Houses closed.	No. of Houses made habitable.	Work in pro- gress.
11	31	18	26	8	—

Houses unfit for
human habitation.

II.—INTRODUCTION OF WATER AND WATER-CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No. of Tenements or part thereof.	No. of Separate Houses.	Requirements.		Introduced.		In Progress.	
		W.-C.'s.	Sinks.	W.-C.'s.	Sinks.	W.-C.'s.	Sinks.
68	701	263	215	71	27	192	188

Introduction of
Water and W.C.'s.

III.—Number of “ Remove Nuisance ” Cases, 64.

Number of Cases where nuisance has been removed, 30.

Cases of Nuisance
in Dwellings.

IV.—CISTERNS.

51 dirty Cisterns were found, while a house to house survey was being made ; these have all been cleaned out by the tenants or owners.

Foul Cisterns.

V.—With a view to ascertaining the sanitary conditions, a house to house
survey was made of the following wards—

House to House
survey.

St Giles’ Ward, where 2,779 houses were inspected.

Canongate „ 2,727 „ „

St Leonard’s „ 2,993 „ „

Total, 8,490.

VI.—SMOKE NUISANCE.

In this matter the Committee have the assistance of officials under the Burgh Engineer, and the following is a statement of the work done during the year :—

Smoke nuisances.

Number of Cases watched, first time, 91.

Number of Cases where notices were served, 55.

Number of Cases where warning has been given of carelessness in
stoking, 1236.

Number of Cases where mechanical alterations have been made, 12.

COMPLAINTS OF NUISANCE.

During the year the number of complaints from the general public re-
ceived at the Department was 587
Of these 363
were dealt with by the officials of the town.

General complaints
of nuisance.

The remainder, 224
in so far as they were found to refer to actual nuisances, were answered by
the parties responsible for them.

INSPECTION OF WORKSHOPS.

General workshops
now subject to
sanitary inspection.

The sanitary condition of general workshops now falls under the supervision of the Committee, and a special Inspector is set apart for this purpose. The following is a statement of the work reported to the Committee in course of the year :—

Number of Workshops on Register, 704

Number of Visits paid to Workshops from
15th May 1895 to 15th May 1896, 1713

I. Satisfactory,	655
II. Unsatisfactory,	49
III. Water-Closets Introduced,	16
IV. Workshops Closed	5
V. Workshops Re-constructed,	9
VI. Prosecutions,	6
VII. Fines and Expenses,	£9 1 0

SHOP HOURS INSPECTION.

Shop Hours
Regulation.

It falls to the Committee to carry out the requirements of the Shop Hours Regulation Act, and one of their officers is charged with this duty.

It is so far satisfactory to note that, out of 5512 shops on the Register, only 16 prosecutions were rendered necessary during the year, and that, of these, several were cases rather of inadvertent than wilful transgression of the Statute.

The following particulars are taken from the Inspector's Returns for the year :—

Number of Shops on Register	5512
I. Inspections made during the day and also at night from the 15th May 1895 to the 15th May 1896	5700
II. General Condition of Employment—	
Satisfactory	4820
Unsatisfactory	692
III. Prosecutions	16
IV. Fines and Expenses	£15 0 0

INSPECTION OF BAKEHOUSES.

Improvement of
Bakehouses.

The bakehouses of the City are under regular inspection at the instance of the Public Health Department and a very greatly improved condition of things now exists compared with a very few years ago. The following is a statement of the results of last year's inspections :—

Number of Bakehouses	246
Number of visits	403
„ altered and improved	4
„ closed	3
„ ventilation improved	1
„ of W.-C.'s removed to better position	9
„ of W.-C.'s improved	4
„ of Urinals removed	1
„ Water Supply taken off the main	6

REGULATION OF MILK TRADE.

The importance of securing a supply of clean and sound milk, especially for the poorer parts of the city, where infant mortality is so high, and the need of preventing the sale of milk tainted with infection, have led the Committee in recent years to maintain strict rules in the inspection of dairies, byres and milkshops.

Need of securing sound and clean milk.

There are within the City boundaries 95 byres, containing in all 2383 cows. Few of these animals are ever taken to grass again after once entering the byres. Not a few of them have been kept in stalls where each animal has had less than 300 cubic feet of air space. No byre is now licensed where the air space is less than 500 cubic feet per animal, and it must be brought up within a short time to 800 feet. It is much to be hoped that cowfeeders will, as occasion offers, see it to be their own interest to remove their byres to rural districts, so that the inhabitants may be sure of a regular supply of country-fed milk.

Byres within the city and number of town-fed cows.

Last year it was found necessary to withhold licences from a number of dairies and milkshops where the sale of milk was carried on under deleterious conditions.

The following Statement is taken from the reports of the Inspector of Byres and Dairies :—

Number of Registered Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk occupying premises within the City as at 15th May 1895	418
Dairies, &c., opened since that date,	26
Dairies, &c., closed since that date,	30
On Register at 15th May 1896,	414
Registered Cowkeepers,	81
Visits paid to Dairies, &c.,	2475
CLEANLINESS—Satisfactory,	373
„ —Unsatisfactory,	41
In communication with Sleeping Apartments,	54
Without proper accommodation for cleansing milk vessels,	6
In which objectionable articles are kept,	48
W.-C. in communication with Shops,	164
Cases of PROHIBITED SALE OF MILK from infected Farms or Dairies under Sect. 25 Edin. Municipal Act 1891	9

THE CITY HOSPITAL.

It is gratifying to note that the confidence of the public in the Hospital has steadily increased. Last year the number of patients was higher than it had ever been, and this not so much because of the greater prevalence of disease as because many who would formerly have been treated in their own homes had been sent to the Hospital, where it is known that better nursing is provided than could otherwise be obtained.

Increasing confidence in the Hospital.

At the beginning of the year there were 211 patients under treatment. During the year 2624 cases were admitted. These, added to the 211 just mentioned, give a total of 2835. From this there fall to be deducted 295 remaining in Hospital at 15th May 1896. We have thus 2540 patients whose cases were treated to a termination during the year. Of these 2412 were discharged cured, and 128, or 4·5 per cent., died. This low rate of mortality is very remarkable when it is considered that, while we have received less than 50 per cent. of the whole cases notified, we received all the poorest and least nourished, and many of the severest forms of attack.

Enteric Fever.

During the year 332 patients suffering from Enteric Fever were admitted, giving a total with those remaining in Hospital from last year of 350. Of these 278 were discharged and 40 died, the rest remaining under treatment. The death-rate was 11·5 per cent.

Typhus.

Only 10 Typhus patients were admitted, of whom 7 were discharged and 3 died, the death-rate being 30 per cent.

Diphtheria.

There were 138 Diphtheria cases admitted, including 7 cases remaining from last year, 145 in all. Of these 108 were discharged, 6 remained under treatment, and 31 died, the death-rate being 21·3 per cent. It is to be observed that this rate is calculated upon the admissions certified as diphtheria, but among these are frequently found cases which cannot be classed as true diphtheria.

Smallpox.

Seven cases of Smallpox remained over from last year, none were admitted, 6 were discharged, and 1 died. The Hospital in Queen's Park, so far as it had been used for patients, was destroyed by fire on 26th December last—its purpose having been fully secured. The unused portion of the erection was removed to the new Hospital grounds at Colinton Mains, and re-erected there as an Emergency Hospital.

There was no further outbreak of the disease. The experience gained during the prevalence of the epidemic taught many important lessons. First, the need of vaccination. The mortality among the unvaccinated cases was 60 per cent. of the seizures, while among those who were said to have been vaccinated, but bore no marks, the mortality was 44 per cent. of the seizures. Second, the benefit of vaccination in childhood. The mortality among those who had been vaccinated in childhood was only 6·56 of the seizures. Third, the advantage of vaccination in after life. There were no cases of seizure among persons who had been properly vaccinated within seven years. So far as our experience went, it demonstrated that persons properly vaccinated remain absolutely immune from the disease for at least a period of seven years. We had, indeed, no loss of life among patients who had been twice properly vaccinated. During the year to 15th May 1895 there were 570 cases treated to a termination with an average mortality of 10·52 per cent.

Scarlatina.

There were admitted 1666 Scarlatina cases, which, with 111 cases remaining, give a total of 1777. Of these 1512 were discharged, 41 died, and 224 remained in Hospital. The death-rate was only 2·3 per cent.

Measles.

Of Measles 189 cases were admitted, giving with 29 cases in Hospital a total of 218. There were discharged 199, died 4, and remained under treatment 15. The death-rate was 1·8 per cent.

Whooping Cough.

Of Whooping Cough there were 30 admissions, giving, with 1 case remaining, over 31 in all. Of these 3 died, 24 were discharged, and the rest remained under treatment. The death-rate of 9·6 per cent is high, but as a rule mild cases are not sent to Hospital.

Erysipelas.

Twelve cases of Erysipelas remained over from last year, 147 were admitted, making 159 in all. There were discharged 151, and 4 died. The death-rate was 2·5 per cent.

Quarantine and Observation.

There were admitted 112 Quarantine and Observation cases, making, with the cases remaining from last year, 138. Of these 1 died, 127 were discharged, and the rest remained in Hospital.

Expenses of Hospital.

The expenses of the Hospital for the year were as follows :—

1. Salaries and wages (including Medical and Nursing Staff)	.	.	.	£3,906	13	1
2. Provisions for Patients and Staff	.	.	.	5,112	5	9
3. Medicines, appliances, and dressings	.	.	.	437	3	6
4. Furnishings, coals, gas, &c.	.	.	.	2,051	18	0
Carry forward	.	.	.	£11,508	0	4

	Brought forward	£11,508	0	4
5.	Repairs	993	2	7
6.	Motive Power for Extractor and Disinfector	70	0	0
7.	Telephone, Insurance, and Incidental Expenses	210	13	9
8.	Expenses of Canongate and Temporary Hospitals	1,118	1	8
	Total cost,	£13,899	18	4

The average number of occupied beds throughout the year was 302. The annual cost of food (including food of Staff) was £16, 18s. 6¼d.; and the annual cost of maintenances, £29, 1s. 11½d. per bed. The total cost was thus £46, 0s. 6¼d. per occupied bed. It may be noted that the medicines, medical appliances and surgical dressings cost per bed, £1, 8s. 11¼d.; while the cost of milk per bed was £3, 8s. 1¾d.

Costs per occupied bed.

The Medical Staff of the Hospital consists of Medical Superintendent and fully qualified Resident Assistants with Visiting Consultant Physician. The latter appointment has hitherto been given to the senior physician retiring from the Royal Infirmary, so that the public using the Hospital have the fullest guarantee that the best medical skill is provided. The total cost in Salaries for Medical Attendance last year was £591, 13s. 4d., or, adding £150 in name of board for two physicians residing in the House, £741, 13s. 4d. This sum, distributed among the 2540 patients treated, gives less than 6s. 6d. per patient. There certainly is no extravagance on this head.

Medical Staff.

Cost of Medical Staff.

Keeping in view the fact that the Hospital is not a charity, but an institution maintained by the citizens at their own cost, in which they are entitled not only to the utmost care, but to every legitimate comfort, the cost per occupied bed cannot be considered heavy. It will, indeed, compare favourably with the cost in some charitable hospitals.

Comparative cost of Hospital.

Medical students attending the University and extra-mural classes are permitted to attend clinics in the Hospital, under the direction of the Visiting Consultant Physician and the Medical Superintendent. The ordinance of the Medical School enjoining personal attendance on a course of fevers is now in operation, and, in keeping with the good relations which have always existed between the Town and the University, the Committee are glad to be able to afford facilities to students in the clinical study of febrile diseases.

Attendance of Students.

The Nursing Staff of the Hospital now consists of 64 nurses, of whom seven are staff nurses—with Lady Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for night duty. The service of the House is performed by 18 ward-maids and cleaners, 17 laundresses, 2 sewing maids, 5 table maids, 2 nurses' dormitory maids, three housemaids, cook and four assistants; seven porters and firemen, with machineman in charge. Regard being had to the onerous nature of the duties entrusted to the nurses, it has always been the desire of the Committee that they should be treated with the utmost consideration consistent with the due maintenance of discipline.

Nursing Staff.

Nurse probationers are received for a period of two years after a month's trial. During that time they receive a salary of £16 for the first and £18 for the second year, with full board, washing and indoor uniform. Qualification certificates are given on proof of fitness after two years' training. Nurses have three hours' recreation daily, and a whole day off duty once a fortnight. Those on night duty have two nights off per month. Staff nurses receive a month's holiday each year, probationers from a fortnight to three weeks. The ward-maids have a half day off duty from 2 to 9 P.M. each week, with three hours on two other days of the week and four hours on Sunday.

Nurse Probationers.

In the course of the year 38 nurses have left the Hospital. Of these three have been appointed as charge nurses in other hospitals at Ayr, Aberdeen, and King Williamstown, Cape Colony; nine have left for general training in other institutions; three have been appointed Lady Superintendents—to Leith Fever Hospital, New Infirmary, Islesworth, near London, and Campie House, respectively; two have commenced private nursing, and one has gone to the mission field in South Africa.

Appointments for Nurses leaving Hospital.

Hospital as
Training School
for Nurses.

In the course of the year 105 applications for training were received. Of these 40 were accepted, but eight of those accepted proved unable for the work, thirty-two therefore were retained. Those considered suitable among the remaining 65 still remain on the Roll of Candidates. The fact that so many more are willing to take up the arduous work of fever nursing than can be supplied with vacancies, gives large room in the selection of candidates, and helps to insure greater efficiency in the staff. Of the new probationers this year six have come from the Queen Victoria Jubilee Nurses' Institute, and six from the Royal Scottish Nursing Institution. The Hospital is now regarded as a valuable training school for fever nurses, and is in this way serving a most beneficial purpose.

Health of Staff.

The health of the Hospital staff has, on the whole, been excellent throughout the year, notwithstanding that the work has been unusually heavy and exacting.

It is pleasing to observe that so many nurses trained in our Fever Hospital have left us to take up more responsible duties elsewhere. The desire of the Committee always is that nurses, servants, and patients alike may leave the hospital with friendly recollections of benefits received, and the Committee are glad to have frequent testimony that this is usually the case.

THE LATE DR A. F. WOOD.

Death of Medical
Superintendent,
Dr A. F. Wood.

We have to lament, however, one grievous exception to the otherwise satisfactory state of health of the staff. Dr Andrew Fleming Wood, the amiable and devoted Medical Superintendent, took ill of pneumonia on 18th April, and died four days afterwards. The Committee always reposed the fullest confidence in Dr Wood, and with excellent reason. He had been in charge of the Hospital during the whole period it has been under the management of the Corporation, and for some years before. No man could be more devoted to his work than Dr Wood, and none could have been happier in the confidence and gratitude of his patients. The success which attended his unselfish labours is seen in the position which the Hospital now enjoys.

The vacancy caused by the death of Dr Wood has been filled by the appointment of Dr Claude B. Ker, a former resident at the Hospital, who brings to his new duties excellent personal qualities as well as professional attainments of a high order in the special department with which he will have to deal.

CHAPLAIN.

Resignation of
Chaplain.

The Rev. James Meiklejohn, who had acted as Chaplain to the Hospital for the past five years, has found himself, owing to feeble health, obliged to relinquish his office. The Committee entertain a very grateful sense of Mr Meiklejohn's unremitting labours, and they have accepted his resignation with much regret.

CONVALESCENT HOME, CAMPIE HOUSE, MUSSELBURGH.

Origin and cost of
maintenance of
Convalescent Home.

The Town Council, having accepted the care of patients suffering from infectious disease, soon came to the determination that their duty should be discharged with as much completeness as possible. This determination was based upon purely economical grounds. It was perceived that, if after a patient had passed through a fever he were permitted to return to work while still in a feeble state, there was every likelihood, if he were a poor man, that he would soon break down and become a possible burden upon the rates. Manifestly it is far better for the patient, and more economical for the rates, that the cure should be rendered complete, and not merely that the patient should be declared free from infection. Accordingly, the Town Council in 1888 purchased

the mansion-house and grounds of Campie, at Musselburgh. Under the direction of Mr Morham the house was rendered suitable for the residence of as many as twenty-eight convalescent patients, and it was opened in May 1889. Since the date of opening no fewer than 2678 patients of both sexes and of all ages have passed through the Home. This speaks to a very large benefit, especially to those who would otherwise have been without the means of obtaining a short residence in the country after an enfeebling illness. The behaviour of the inmates has always been satisfactory and the work has gone on for seven years practically without a hitch. Last year the number of patients who passed through the Home was 532. The average stay of each was 13·4 days. The average number of occupied beds was 19. The staff consists of a lady superintendent, who also acts as housekeeper, a cook, and three maid servants. The grounds are kept under the supervision of the city gardener. The total cost of the Home for the year was £777, 2s. 8d., giving an average cost per occupied bed of £41, 6s. The cost of food was £20, 5s. 1d. per occupied bed.

Miss Lamont, who had been Lady Superintendent since the opening of the Home, was appointed Superintendent of the Nurses' Institute in Glasgow, and to the great regret of the Committee, relinquished her position at Campie in December last. Miss Lamont's zealous and faithful services were always highly appreciated by the Committee, and gratefully regarded by the patients. She carries with her the warmest good wishes of the Committee for her success and happiness in the responsible situation which she has been called upon to fill.

Miss Lamont has been succeeded at Campie by Miss E. Stewart, who has had her training in the City Hospital, where she served for over seven years, having acted as staff nurse for the last four years. The Committee have full confidence that her special training will prove a valuable qualification to her as Superintendent of the Convalescent Home.

NEW CITY HOSPITAL, COLINTON MAINS.

If the whole number of cases of infectious disease which occurred within the city during the year had fallen to be treated in the Hospital, the Committee would have required double the nominal accommodation which they had at their disposal. The need of increased accommodation has been forcing itself upon the Corporation for some time. In November last, upon the recommendation of the Committee, the Town Council acquired, at the price of £20,500, the lands of Colinton Mains extending to about 130 acres. This ground has an excellent southern exposure and will afford one of the best sites for a fever hospital obtainable in the neighbourhood of the city.

Arrangements for
New Hospital.

The erection of the Hospital has been entrusted to the able hands of Mr Morham, City Architect, and the Committee have the fullest confidence that from his designs an Isolation Hospital in every way creditable to the city and to the reputation of the Edinburgh Medical School will be produced. Mr Morham reports that Sketch Plans have been in progress for the permanent hospital, but that, owing to uncertainty as to arrangements with General Trotter for access through his lands to the east, the exact site of the Hospital could not be determined, and material progress was prevented. Arrangements with General Trotter have now been made, and the Plans will shortly be in the hands of the Council.

ENLARGED PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES.

The apartments in the Police Chambers occupied by the Medical Officer of Health have for many years been utterly inadequate for the largely increased staff and the proper discharge of their duties. They are indeed the same

Limited space
inadequate for
work of Depart-
ment.

rooms that were in use by the Department when the Committee was formed. It is hardly necessary to point out how seriously such limited accommodation interferes with the work under the Committee's direction. The opportunity for remedying the evil is now fortunately at hand. The removal of the offices of the Collector of Police to the premises recently acquired from Messrs M'Laren, Son & Co., adjoining the Council Chambers, will set free a large enough space contiguous to that now occupied by Sir Henry Littlejohn, to give ample room for conducting the Public Health business under satisfactory conditions. The Committee do not doubt that the Town Council will readily agree to provide the accommodation so urgently required.

Humbly reported in name of the Public Health Committee,

JAMES POLLARD, *B.*, *Convener.*

EDINBURGH, *21st October 1896.*

REPORT
OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
FOR THE
Year ending 15th May 1896.